

POLREP #2
REGIONAL ENTERPRISES INC., EMERGENCY RESPONSE
410 WATER STREET
HOPEWELL, PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VA 23860
ATTENTION: DENNIS CARNEY, CHARLIE KLEEMAN, GREGG CRYSTALL AND
STEPHEN LUFTIG

I. SITUATION: (2400 HOURS, SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1991)

- A. ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1991, APPROXIMATELY 40,000 GALS OF 97% SULFURIC ACID DISCHARGED FROM IT'S STORAGE TANK INTO THE TANK'S DIKED AREA. THE MATERIAL MIGRATED INTO AN ADJACENT DIKED AREA CONTAINING A TANK CONTAINING ONE MILLION GALLONS OF CRUDE WASTE OIL. BOTH DIKED AREAS COMBINED CONTAINED APPROX. 100,000 GALLONS OF RAIN WATER. THE PROPERTY OWNER (GARY FARRAR) BEGAN A CLEANUP EFFORT WITH CITY OF HOPEWELL FIRE DEPT. AND VIRGINIA DEPT. OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (VADES) OVERSEEING THE OPERATION. ON AUGUST 10, 1991, VADES REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF EPA'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE SECTION TO EVALUATE THE CLEANUP EFFORTS BY THE PROPERTY OWNER. THE OSC SUBSEQUENTLY TASKED EPA'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM TO RESPOND TO THE INCIDENT.

B. PERSONNEL ON SCENE:

EPA - 1
USCG - 5
VADES - 8
CITY OF HOPEWELL - 2
TAT - 3

REGIONAL ENTERPRISE OFFICIALS & CONTRACTORS - 8

- II. WEATHER: SUNNY AND WARM WITH TEMPERATURES IN THE MID-80S.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. 0115 HOURS: VADES PARKER AND TAT DISCUSSED THE NECESSITY FOR EMPTYING OUT THE OIL STORAGE TANK WITH MR. FARRAR. MR. FARRAR STATED THAT THE PLAN THEY ARE CONSIDERING IS FIRST CLEANING OUT THE DIKE AROUND THE TANK AND THEN ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF CORROSION ON THE TANK USING ULTRASONIC MEASUREMENTS.
- B. 0600 HOURS: OH MATERIALS, THE RP CONTRACTOR, RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY 10,000 GALLONS OF SPILLED ACID USING TWO DIAPHRAM PUMPS. RECOVERY WAS SLOW DUE TO FREQUENT FAILURE OF DIAPHRAM PUMPS.
- C. 0830 HOURS: OH MATERIALS MOBILIZED TWO 3-INCH POLYPROPYLENE PUMPS, ONE 3-INCH STAINLESS STEEL PUMP AND ONE 6-INCH STAINLESS STEEL CENTRIFUGAL PUMP TO SITE.
- D. 1400 HOURS: EDWARD MURPHY, COMMANDER COAST GUARD ARRIVED ON SITE TO ASSESS THE SITUATION.
- E. 1415 HOURS: TAT ASSESSED THE ACID REMAINING IN THE DIKES. APPROXIMATELY 20,000 GALLONS REMAINED IN THE DIKE AROUND OIL STORAGE TANK (#40) AND APPROXIMATELY 60,000 GALLONS IN THE DIKE CONTAINING THE LEAKY SULFURIC ACID TANK. OH MATERIALS HAS RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY 40,000 GALLONS SO FAR.
- F. 1600 HOURS: OSC KOOB EXECUTED A 50K ACTIVATION AND

ORIGINAL
(Red)

MOBILIZED ERCB CONTRACTOR GUARDIAN TO SITE. GUARDIAN MOBILIZED A 30,000 HBL BARGE TO TRANSFER CRUDE OIL FROM OIL STORAGE 40, IF NECESSARY.

- G. OBC KOOB CONDUCTED DISCUSSIONS WITH RP FARRAR. OBC EXPLAINED THE NECESSITY FOR EMPTYING OIL STORAGE 40 AND DEMONSTRATING ITS STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY BEFORE FURTHER USE. MR. FARRAR BRIEFED OBC ABOUT HIS PLANS TO EMPTY OUT AND CLEAN CAUSTIC STORAGE #90 AND TRANSFER OIL FROM STORAGE 40 TO STORAGE 90.

- H. 2100 HOURS: OBC, VADES, USCG, AND CITY OF HOPEWELL PERSONNEL MET RP FARRAR AND ASSESSED THE PROGRESS OF THE OPERATIONS AND DISCUSSED THE STRATEGY FOR TRANSFERRING THE OIL SAFELY.

- I. 2330 HOURS: DURING INSPECTION OF THE TANK, OBC KOOB AND COAST GUARD OFFICIALS DISCOVERED A LEAK IN THE BASE OF THE OIL TANK. A RIVET HAD CORRODED AND THE WATER LAYER IN THE BOTTOM OF THE TANK WAS LEAKING.

III. FUTURE PLANS:

- A. OBC KOOB TO CONTINUE COORDINATING WITH SITE PERSONNEL CLEANUP EFFORTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONAL ENTERPRISE OFFICIALS.
- B. TAT TO CONTINUE DOCUMENTING ALL EFFORTS AND/OR PROBLEMS OCCURRING ON SITE AND RELAY INFORMATION TO OBC KOOB.
- C. ERCB (GUARDIAN) TO STANDBY AND TRANSFER OIL FROM STORAGE #40 TO THE BARGE IF THE RP EFFORT TO TRANSFER THE OIL SAFELY IS NOT EFFECTIVE.

KEVIN KOOB, OBC
U.S. EPA REGION III
PHILADELPHIA, PA

ORIGINAL
(Red)

REGIONAL ENTERPRISES SITE

410 WATER STREET

HOPEWELL, PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VA 23860

ATTENTION: DENNIS CARNEY, CHARLIE KLEEMAN, GREGG CRYSTALL AND
STEPHEN LUFTIG

I. SITUATION: (2400 HOURS, MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 1991)

- A. ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1991, APPROXIMATELY 40,000 GALS OF 97% SULFURIC ACID DISCHARGED FROM IT'S STORAGE TANK INTO THE TANK'S DIKED AREA. THE MATERIAL MIGRATED INTO AN ADJACENT DIKED AREA CONTAINING A TANK CONTAINING ONE MILLION GALLONS OF CRUDE WASTE OIL. BOTH DIKED AREAS CONTAINED APPROX. 100,000 GALLONS OF RAIN WATER. THE PROPERTY OWNER (GARY FARRAR) BEGAN A CLEANUP EFFORT WITH CITY OF HOPEWELL FIRE DEPT. AND VIRGINIA DEPT. OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (VADES) OVERSEEING THE OPERATION. ON AUGUST 10, 1991, VADES REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF EPA'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE SECTION TO EVALUATE THE CLEANUP EFFORTS BY THE PROPERTY OWNER. THE OSC SUBSEQUENTLY TASKED EPA'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM TO RESPOND TO THE INCIDENT.

B. PERSONNEL ON SCENE:

EPA - 1
USCO - 5
VADES - 8
CITY OF HOPEWELL - 2
TAT - 3
ERCS - 4
US NAVY - 14
RED CROSS - 3

REGIONAL ENTERPRISE OFFICIALS & CONTRACTORS - 8

- H. WEATHER: SUNNY AND WARM WITH TEMPERATURES IN THE MID-80S.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. 0001 HOURS: OSC ACCELERATED RP'S DEPLOYMENT OF BOOM IN THE JAMES RIVER AND FOR TRANSFERRING OIL FROM STORAGE 40 TO STORAGE 90. PUMPING OUT OF CAUSTIC LYE FROM STORAGE 90, WELDING WORK ON THE TRANSFERRING LINE, AND INSTALLATION OF PUMP ARE IN PROGRESS.
- B. 0200 HOURS: AS DIRECTED BY OSC KOOB TAT PERFORMED A BENCH SCALE MIXING OF THE CAUSTIC SODA LYE AND THE OIL SAMPLE DRAWN FROM STORAGE 40. NO REACTION OR GENERATION OF HEAT WAS OBSERVED.
- C. 0700 HOURS: TRANSFERRING OF OIL FROM STORAGE 40 TO STORAGE 90 COMMENCED. INDUSTRIAL MARINE SERVICES (IMS) COMPLETED DEPLOYMENT OF BOOM IN JAMES RIVER ADJACENT TO STORAGE 40.
- D. 0815 HOURS: A SECOND LEAK WAS OBSERVED AROUND RIVET HOLES AT THE BASE OF STORAGE 40 NEAR THE FIRST LEAK. CONSIDERING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, OSC KOOB ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE RESPONSE AND INITIATED STEPS TO PROCURE ANOTHER PUMP TO SPEED UP TRANSFERRING OF OIL FROM STORAGE 40 TO STORAGE 90.
- E. 1000 HRS. BARGE ARRIVE SITE AND DOCK AT THE PIER, READY

ORIGINAL
(Red)

TO RECEIVE OIL FROM STORAGE 40, IF NECESSARY.

- F. 1010 HOURS: OSC KOOB BRIEFED PRESS ABOUT THE SITUATION.
- G. 1200 HOURS: OSC KOOB NOTIFIED GENERAL CHEMICAL CORP., OWNER OF THE SULFURIC ACID AND MARPOL, INC. OF VIRGINIA, OWNER OF THE CRUDE WASTE OIL, OF THEIR STATUS AS A POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY.
- H. 1250 HOURS: PUMPING OF OIL WITH THE SECOND PUMP COMMENCED.
- I. 1700 HOURS: OSC KOOB BRIEFED SKIP GIBSON, COMMANDER NAVAL BASE, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA WHO ARRIVED SITE WITH SKIMMER, BOOMS AND ABSORBENT PADS, ABOUT THE SITE STATUS.
- J. OH MATERIALS, RP CONTRACTOR RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY 40,000 GALLONS DILUTE SULFURIC ACID FOR TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 90,000 GALLONS RECOVERED SO FAR.
- I. 2330 HOURS: APPROXIMATELY 650,000 GALLONS OF OIL TRANSFERRED FROM STORAGE 40 TO STORAGE 90. OSC KOOB AFTER ASSESSING THE SITUATION DECIDED THAT THE THREAT OF AN OIL LEAK FROM STORAGE TANK 40 REACHING JAMES RIVER NO LONGER EXIST. OSC INSTRUCTED ERCS TO RELEASE THE BARGE.

III. FUTURE PLANS:

- A. OSC KOOB TO CONTINUE COORDINATING WITH SITE PERSONNEL CLEANUP EFFORTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONAL ENTERPRISE OFFICIALS.
- B. TAT TO CONTINUE DOCUMENTING ALL EFFORTS AND/OR PROBLEMS OCCURRING ON SITE AND RELAY INFORMATION TO OSC KOOB.

KEVIN KOOB, OSC
U.S. EPA REGION III
PHILADELPHIA, PA

ORIGINAL
(Red)

JE R3DC R3DE R3DE2 CRC3 R3DOI R3DOJ R3EPA R3FEMA R3FHWA
FWS R3HHS R3MD R3MD2 R3PA R3VA R3VWCB R3WV COE3 FDDC NAVY3
RSAN MSOPHL MSOBWI MSOORF MSOBUF MSOPIT MSOHUN MSOILK OSC3
SARYO NYSSC LA
R3EPA

From: R3EPA Regional Response (OAD)
Date: MON, AUG 12 1991 09:18:53
Subject: REGION III RRT NOTIFICATION, REGIONAL ENTERPRISES, HOPEWELL, VA

SITUATION: EPA OSC KEVIN KOOB INITIATED A FEDERAL RESPONSE ON SUNDAY 11 AUGUST 1991 TO CONTROL AND STABILIZE A SITUATION WHICH REPRESENTS A POTENTIAL MAJOR INCIDENT. OSC KOOB HAS ACTIVATED CERCLA AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE A TANK BARGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSFERRING UP TO 1 MILLION GALLONS OF OIL PRODUCT (SLOP) FROM A STORAGE TANK WHICH IS LEAKING INTO DIKED CONTAINMENT ADJACENT TO THE JAMES RIVER IN HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA. THE OIL STORAGE TANK HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH 88% SULFURIC ACID RESULTING FROM A EARLIER SPILL OF 96% SULFURIC ACID INTO THE CONTAINMENT. THE OIL IS LEAKING AT RIVETS WHICH WERE IN CONTACT WITH THE SULFURIC ACID. MOST OF THE SULFURIC ACID HAS SINCE BEEN PUMPED INTO TANK TRUCKS. CAUSE AND EFFECT IS PRE-LORED BUT NOT CERTAIN.

BACKGROUND: ON FRIDAY 9 AUGUST 1991 THE EPA REGION III REGIONAL RESPONSE CENTER WAS NOTIFIED OF AN EQUIPMENT FAILURE WHICH LED TO A SPILL OF 40,000 GALLONS OF 96% SULFURIC ACID INTO 100,000 GALLONS OF WATER IN THE CONTAINMENT AREA, RESULTING IN 88% SULFURIC ACID. LATER, EPA WAS NOTIFIED THAT THERE WAS A 1 MILLION GALLON OIL STORAGE TANK IN THAT CONTAINMENT AREA WHICH WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE 88% SULFURIC ACID. VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL ON-SCENE REQUESTED EPA ASSISTANCE ON SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 1991.

CURRENT PLANS: THE CONTENTS OF THE OIL STORAGE TANK, WHICH CONSISTED OF 900,000 GALLONS OF OIL (SLOP) AND 100,000 WATER IS BEING PUMPED INTO AN EMPTY NEARBY TANK BY REGIONAL ENTERPRISES' CLEANUP CONTRACTOR. BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION AND THE AMOUNT OF TIME NEEDED TO EMPTY THE TANK BY THESE MEANS, OSC KOOB HAS DIRECTED THE EPA ERCE CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE A TANK BARGE AND A HIGH RATE PUMP TO SUBSTANTIALLY ACCELERATE THE OFF-LOADING OF THE OIL STORAGE TANK. THE BARGE IS EXPECTED AT 1200 HOURS THIS DATE. U.S. COAST GUARD PERSONNEL FROM THE MSO HAMPTON ROADS HAVE BEEN ON-SCENE AND HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE POTENTIAL FOR A MAJOR RELEASE OF OIL TO THE JAMES RIVES SHOULD THE TANK RAIL BEFORE THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN REMOVED.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: CONTACT CHARLIE KLEEMAN, CHIEF WESTERN RESPONSE SECTION, SUPERFUND REMOVAL BRANCH AT FTS 597-4018. JOEIE MATSINGER SENDS.

8/12/91
1230 hrs